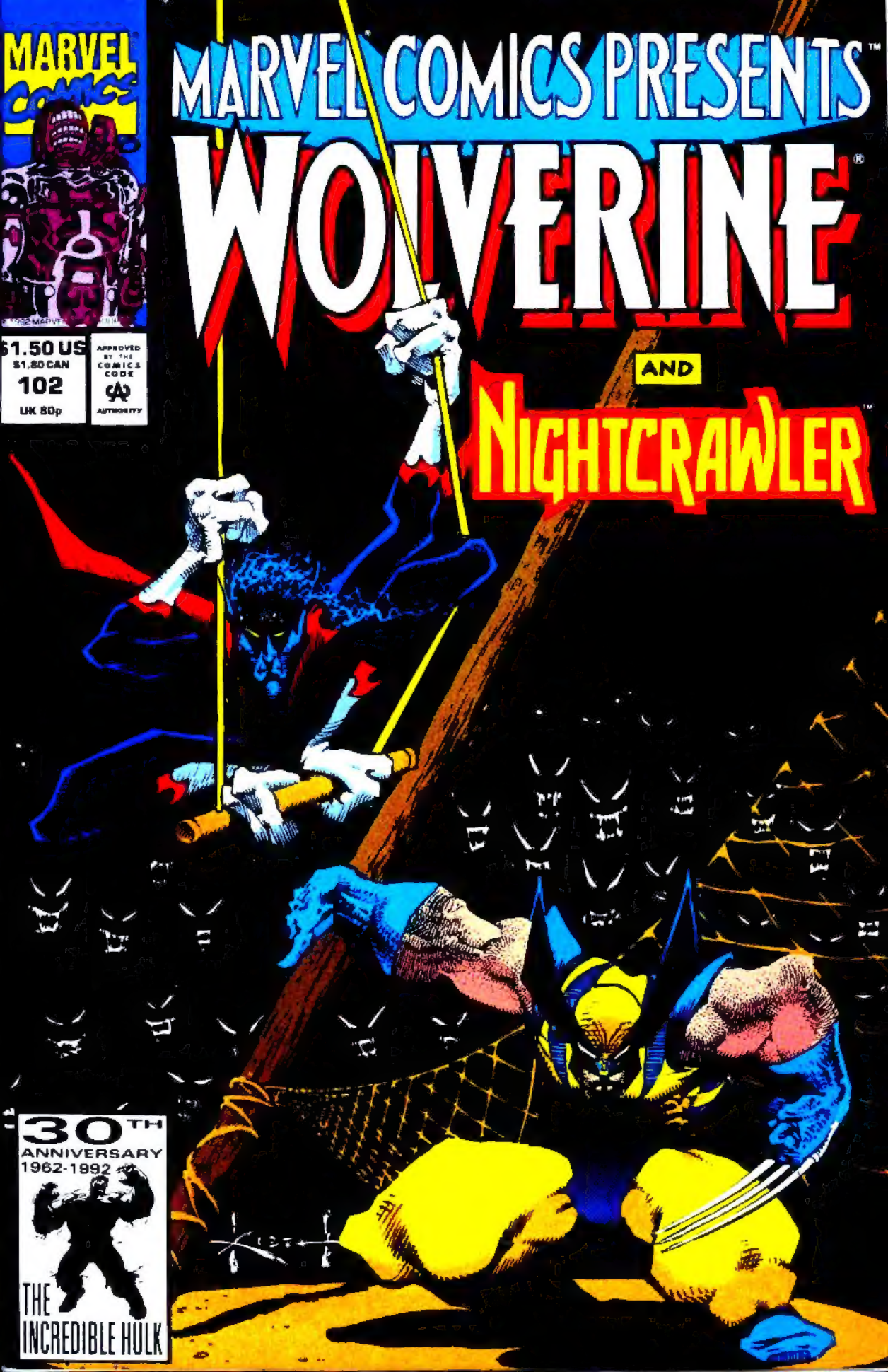
MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™
WOLVERINE®
AND
NIGHTCRAWLER™
$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN
102
UK 80p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962-1992
THE INCREDIBLE HULK

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ NIGHTCRAWLER 1

MALE BONDING
Part 2 of 8
"WHEREVER WE GO..."

Last issue, Wolverine tracked his old X-Men comrade, Nightcrawler, to the small German town of Winzeldorf. But is there more to the village and its inhabitants than meets the eye?

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler — GENE COLAN
Inker – AL WILLIAMSON
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

YOUNG GODS 9

AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
Part 2 of 9
"A MEETING WITH THE MASTERS"

Last issue, Sea Witch detected the presence of a renegade god on Earth. Determined to stop it, she and the other Young Gods have demanded an audience with the Celestials, their masters, seeking permission to return to Earth...

Writer — GERRY CONWAY
Artist — TOM SUTTON
Letterer — PHIL FELIX
Colorist — TOM SMITH

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

Dear Terry,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #95

I am quite enjoying the new Wolverine serial "Wild Frontier." You shoulda called it "Dances With Wolverine," though! This is Tim Truman's kind of story and he does it so well. No complaints here. Todd Foxx's art is decent—a little too rough for my tastes, though. Too bad Truman didn't illustrate it himself. Now that would have been something.

I can't get enough of those Sam Kieth covers. The new double-cover format is interesting. I prefer this to the old way. In the past, the back cover was often not even worth looking at.

I also like the Nova serial. Gavin Curtis is an excellent artist. I don't think I'm familiar with his name, but I hope to see a lot more of him in the future.

I can't say I was too impressed with the Ghost Rider/Cable story, though. This was a waste of these two fine characters. The story is, for the most part, uninteresting and it just keeps dragging along.

Like all of the one-parters, I found the Hulk serial just average. I must say, though, that the artist, Vince Evans, shows some potential.

Trent Rogers
825 Exmouth St. #19
Sarnia, Ontario
CANADA N7T 5R1

Hmm... "Dances With Wolverine" does have a certain ring to it, Trent. And Logan does resemble Kevin Costner a little, right? Oh well, maybe next time...

Dear Terry,

Issue #95 was good, although I have read better. I'd like to start my letter by asking why all the Marvel Comics raised their price by 25 cents? Also, I'd like to comment on Nathan Olsen's letter. I'm adopting his rating system because I totally agree with him about the claws. When you answered the letter, you said he broke the exclamation point record with 25 of them. You were wrong! There were 29 exclamation points. Either mighty Marvel actually made a mistake, or you can't count. That's something to think about, ain't it. Well, enough talk—onto the ratings...

Wolverine: I wish I caught the first few issues of Weapon-X, but the end was great. I missed the first issue of the Cyber storyline, but it turned out good. History repeated itself with the latest look into Wolvie's past. And, if things work out the way they have so far, "Wild Frontier" will end as great as it began. SNIKT! SNIKT! Two Claws! (Remember, zero is best, six is worst.)

Nova: I didn't know much about this woman, but the story seems pretty good. Doesn't Galactus wonder where she was? And, at the end of the story, Kasema says their fate is sealed. Can't they turn the ships away, or do they have to follow the lead ships automatically? SNIKT! SNIKT! SNIKT! SNIKT! Four Claws!

Ghost Rider/Cable: This story looks interesting. Is the girl really one of the Servants of the Dead? SNIKT! SNIKT! Two Claws!

Hulk: Great story! Let's see more of Slayer. The only thing I didn't like about the story was when Johnny bullied around the other kids. SN–! Half a claw!

One more thing before I go: I love your new format.

Danny Riley
Rte. 2 Box 313
Bay Springs, MS 39422

We like the new format too, Danny, and here are the answers to your other comments: Marvel had to raise prices because of climbing production costs (It's getting expensive to make a book!); Okay, there were 29 exclamation points—but we didn't make a mistake. We just can't count!; We think Galactus was worried sick!; the latter; yes. Thanks also for your use of the new "Nathan Olsen" grading system. If you turn this book around, you can see a letter from Nate himself...

SEEMS YOU ALWAYS HEAR THE HARD PART OF BEING A MUTANT.
"LIVING IN A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS YOU..." THAT SORT OF STUFF.
ELF, IS IT ME...OR ARE YOU WOEFULLY OUT OF SHAPE?
MY SHAPE IS GOING TO BE FLAT IF YOU DO NOT LEND ME A HAND!
MALE BONDING
PART 2
WHEREVER WE GO
KRAACK
I'M HERE TO TELL YOU, IT ISN'T ALL BAD.
TAKE RIGHT NOW, FOR EXAMPLE.
I GET TO TRAVEL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS LIKE NIGHTCRAWLER.
AND MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE LIKE THE MONSTER DU JOUR WITH HIS PAWS AROUND THE NECK OF MY OLD BUDDY AND FORMER X-MAN.
STARRING
WOLVERINE
AND
NIGHTCRAWLER

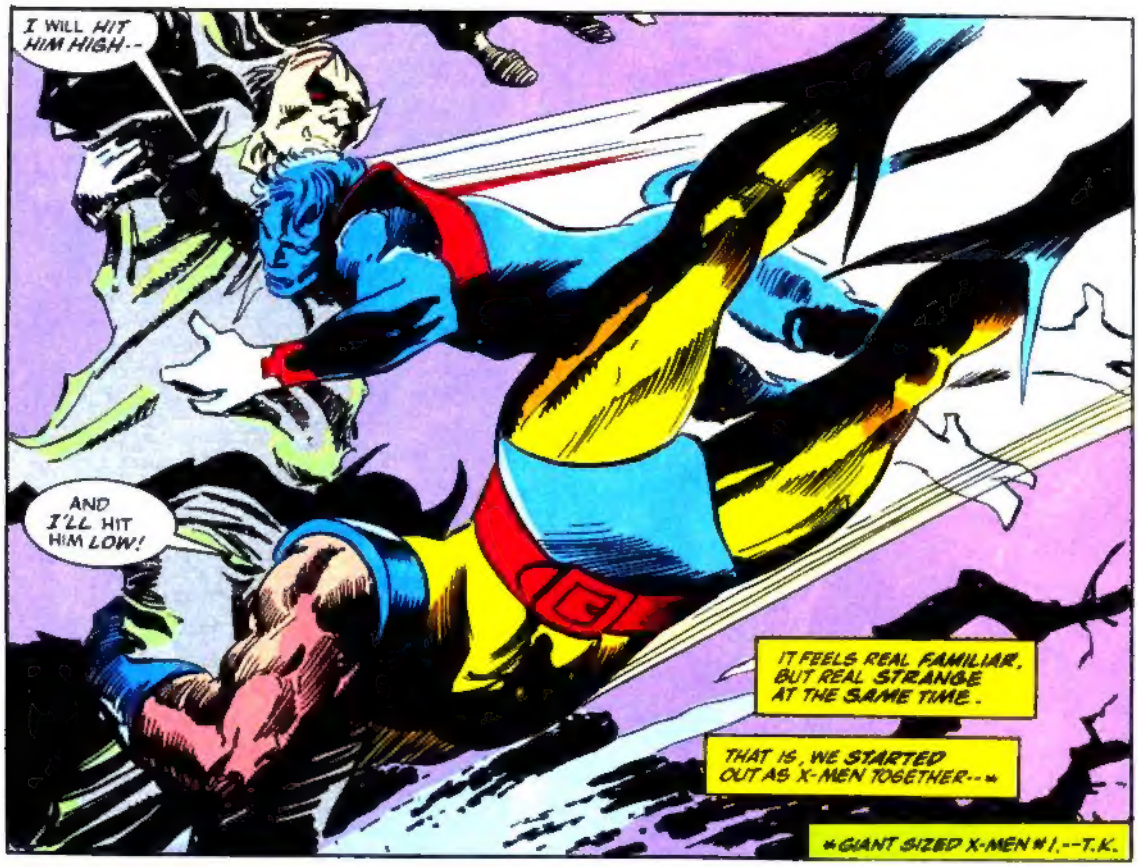
HERR WAGNER, ALL I NEED IS A MOMENT OF YOUR--
BAMF!
VAS!
YOU THERE...?!
WOLVERINE.
YOU THERE, WOLVERINE--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIEND...?
:sniff:
SMELL THAT BRIMSTONE...?
JA...WHAT OF IT ?
IT'S ONE OF THE NASTIER SIDE-EFFECTS OF NIGHT-CRAWLER'S MUTANT ABILITY TO TELEPORT.
JUDGING FROM THE SPEED AND DIRECTION OF THE WIND--
--AND COMPENSATING FOR THE COUNTLESS OTHER ODORS YOU'RE BOUND TO FIND IN A FOREST THIS THICK...
MY BEST GUESS ?
CERTAINLY.
I'D SAY HE'S--
--UP THERE.

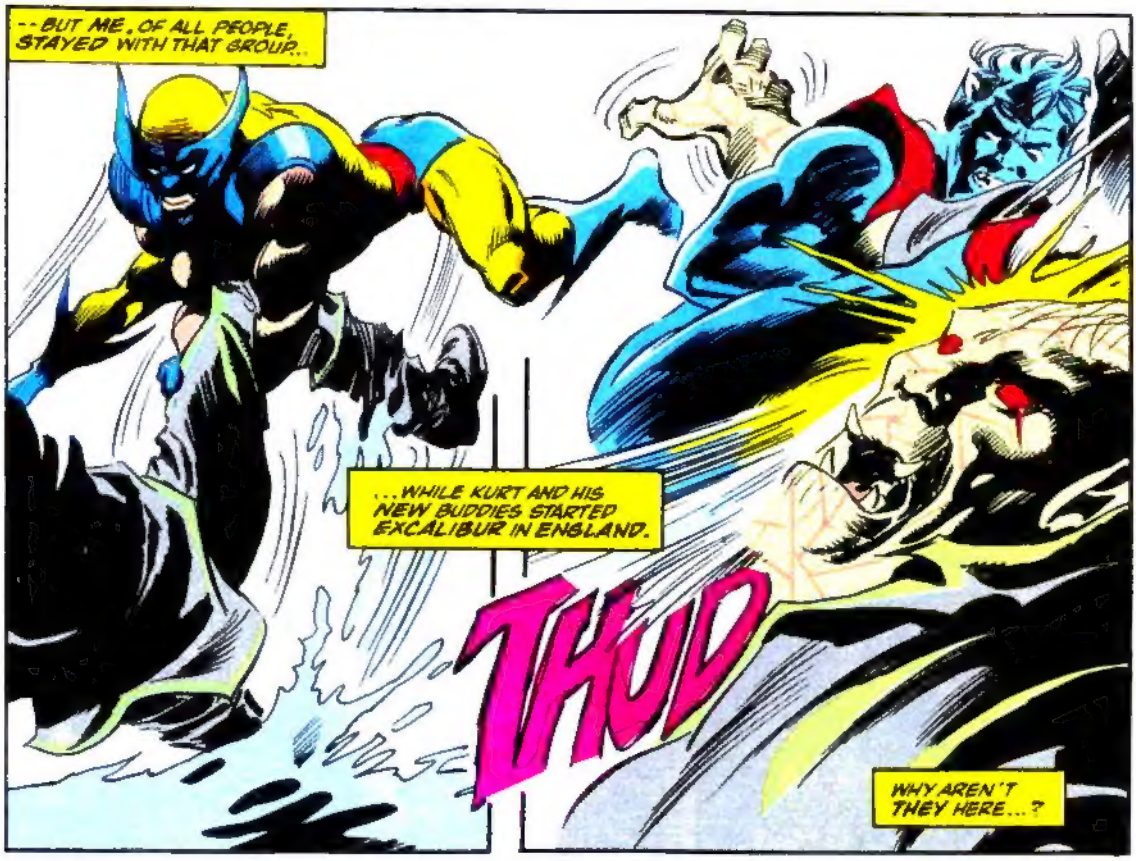
I RETURNED TO WINZELDORFF AT THE REQUEST OF MY FRIENDS--
--TO UNCOVER THE SOURCE OF STRANGE OCCURRENCES PLAGUING THIS VILLAGE!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND--
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS, BUB.
KLUNK
WE'RE THE HEROES.
YOU'RE THE MONSTER.
AND YOUR MURDERING RAMPAGE ENDS HERE AND NOW!
THUMP
THUMP
OKAY, SO JUTTA NEVER SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED A "MURDERING RAMPAGE"--
--BUT WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH MONSTERS ROAMING THE GERMAN COUNTRYSIDE, IT'S A GIVEN.
JUTTA...?
SHE'S THE ELF'S OLD CIRCUS PAL.
KURT?
WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN YOU INTO?!

WE'RE BOTH SPINNING AND TWISTING, MAKING SURE MY ADAMANTIUM-LACED SKELETON--
--DOESN'T ACCIDENTALLY PERFORATE ANYBODY ON IMPACT.
NIGHTCRAWLER?!
KURT--WHERE ARE YOU, ELF?
SPLASH
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A FORMER BEST BUDDY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN AGES?
OVER HERE, LOGAN.
SATURATED--BUT NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HOW YOU BEEN...?
WELL. AND YOU...?
IF YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH...
DEAD.
BUT I GOT BETTER.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD.
SHASSHH

I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
LISTEN TO ME--I MEAN YOU NO HARM!
WHAT KIND OF SCHEDULE YOU ON, BUB?
YOU SUPPOSED TO TERRORIZE THE VILLAGERS BEFORE DAWN, OR SOMETHING?
I AM NOT CONVINCED.
BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO GUT HIM--BUT HE MIGHT INSTINCTIVELY SNAP THE ELF'S NECK!
MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE IN COMING HERE!
I ALWAYS DO MY BEST LISTENING WITH MY LUNGS FULL OF AIR...
I CAN PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEE THAT'S THE CASE.

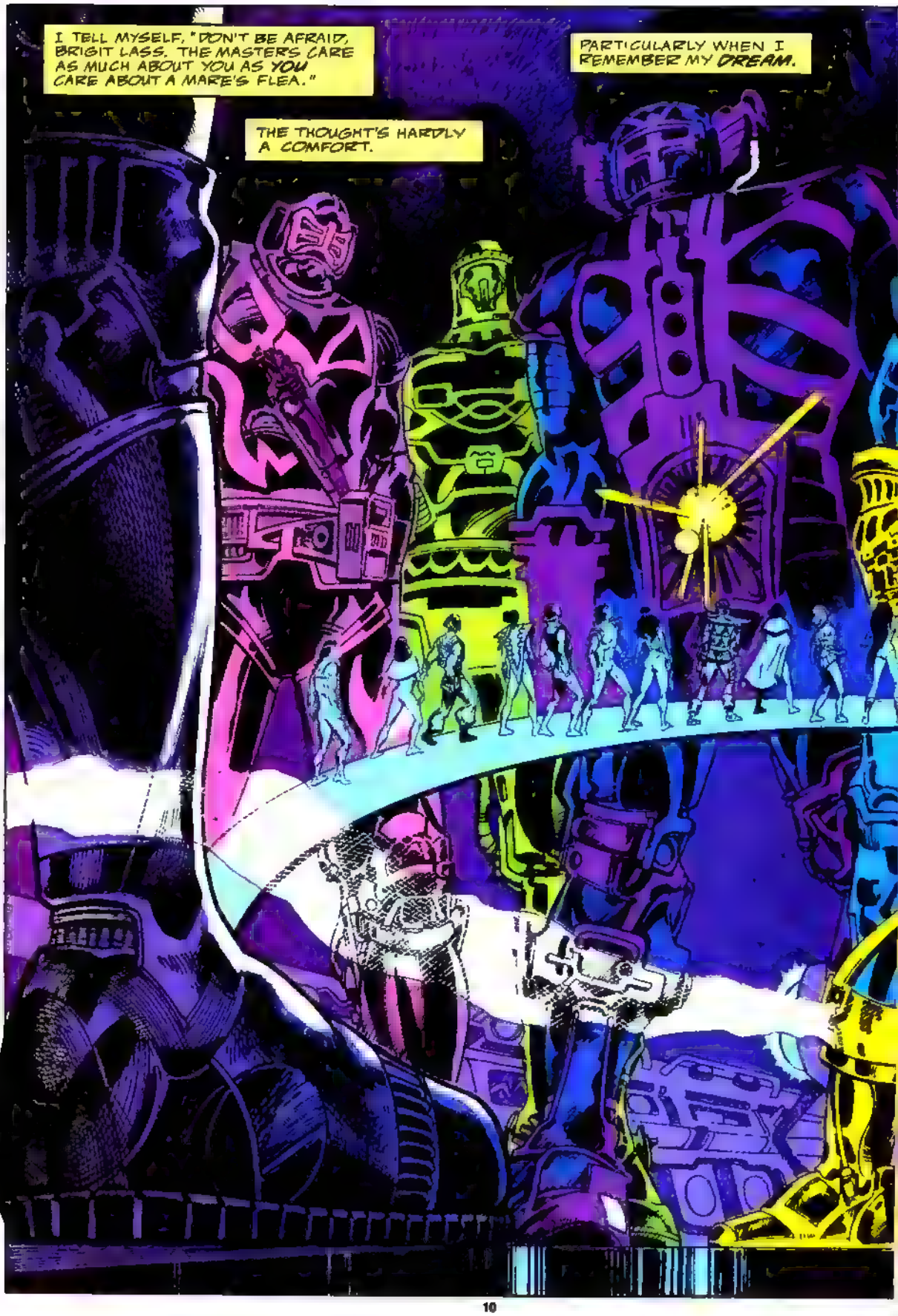
SO, LOGAN -- I DO NOT SUPPOSE YOUR ARRIVAL HERE IN GERMANY IS A COINCIDENCE ?
GOOD TO SEE YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR KEEN GRASP OF THE OBVIOUS, KURT.
TRUTH IS, I WAS IN THE COUNTRY ANYWAY WITH A HANDFUL OF OTHER X-MEN * --
* X-MEN # 7. -- T.K.
WHEN A PAL BY THE NAME OF MAVERICK SAID HIS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES CLAIMED YOU WERE IN TOWN.
"ON THE TRAIL OF A TRIBE OF MONSTERS"... OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT.
THAT IS QUITE THE OVER-SIMPLIFI-CATION, I AM AFRAID--
--BUT WHILE YOU ARE HERE, I APPRECIATE YOUR ASSIS-TANCE.
LIKE YOU GOT A CHOICE ?
FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, MEIN FREUND...

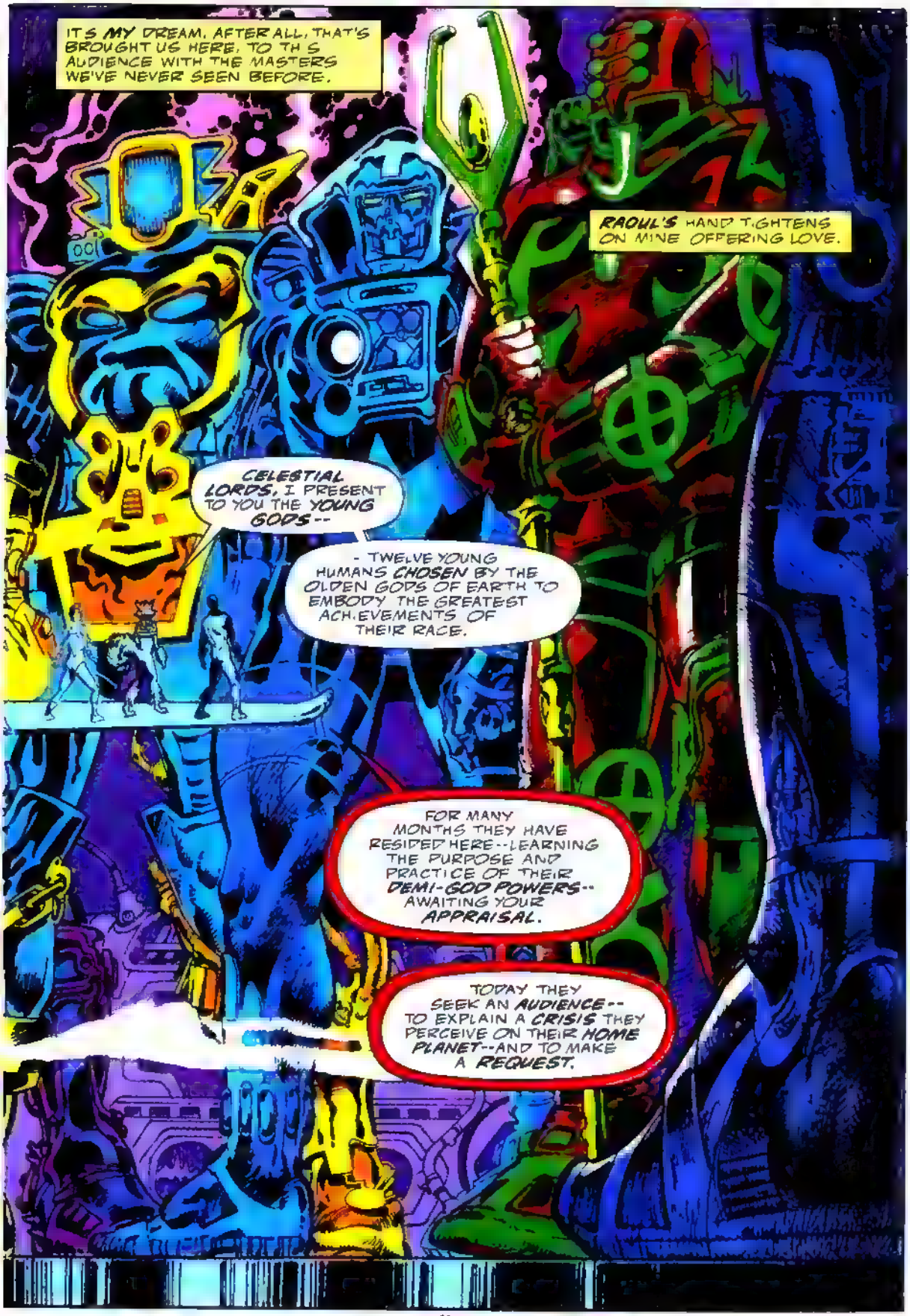

I WILL HIT HIM HIGH--
AND I'LL HIT HIM LOW!
IT FEELS REAL FAMILIAR, BUT REAL STRANGE AT THE SAME TIME.
THAT IS, WE STARTED OUT AS X-MEN TOGETHER--
"GIANT SIZED X-MEN #1."--T.K.


--BUT ME, OF ALL PEOPLE, STAYED WITH THAT GROUP...
...WHILE KURT AND HIS NEW BUDDIES STARTED EXCALIBUR IN ENGLAND.
THUD
WHY AREN'T THEY HERE...?

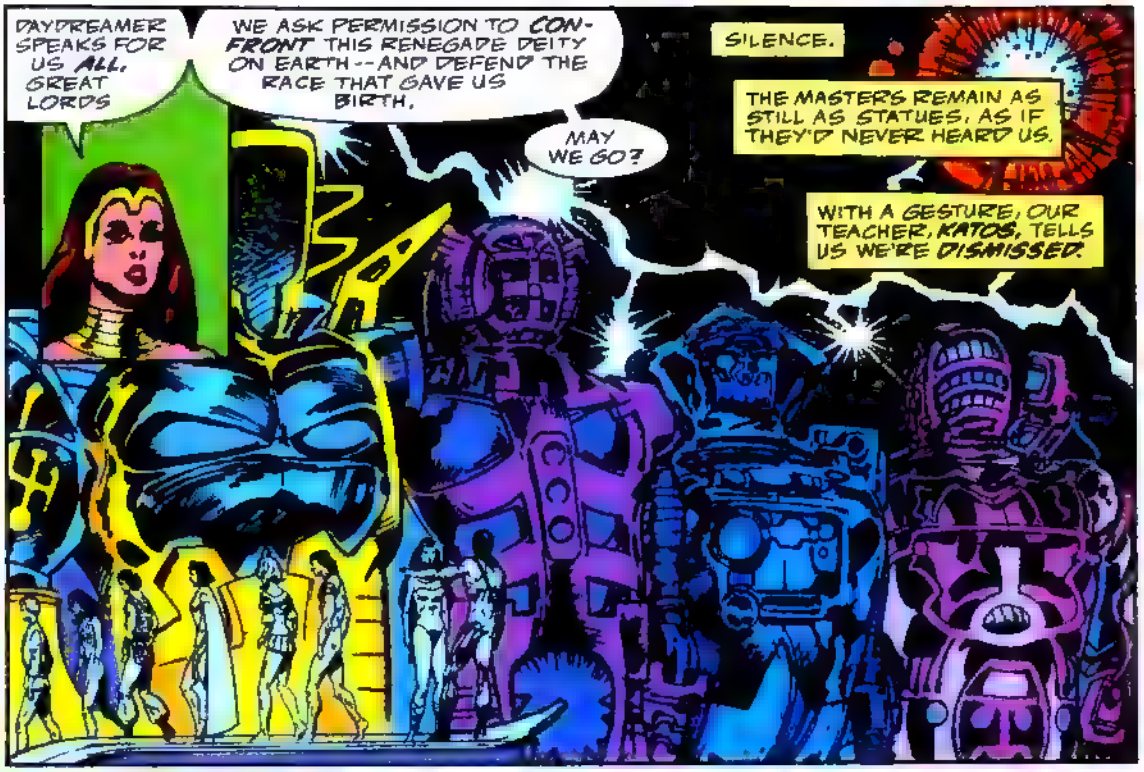
PLEASE... THERE IS NO NEED FOR THIS-
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. NOW UNLESS YOU WANT A BELLY FULL OF ADAMANTIUM--
YOU'LL SPIT OUT WHAT IT IS YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO SAY!
SNIKT
I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY MISUNDER-STANDING--
--FOR I AM BUT A CHILD, AND HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH HUMANS.
I WAS CERTAIN HERR WAGNER WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED ME FROM THE START.
YOU MUST HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
PLEASE, SAY THAT IS NOT TRUE!
IF YOU DO NOT REMEMBER, THEN ALL IS LOST!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE--
--EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT KILLING YOUR STEP-BROTHER, STEFAN SZARDOS!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

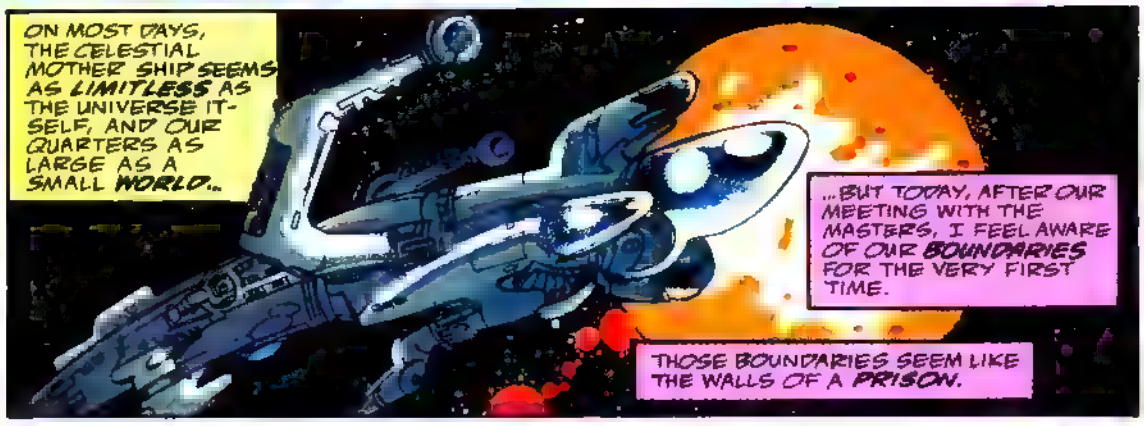
YOUNG GODS IN AGAINST A ROGUE GOD PART 2
"A MEETING WITH THE MASTERS"
THE DECK OF THE CORRIDOR FEELS COOL BENEATH MY BARE FEET
THE CELESTIALS KEEP THE TEMPERATURE OF THEIR MOTHER SHIP TWENTY DEGREES BELOW THE RANGE WE HUMANS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO CONSIDER NORMAL...
...THOUGH WHAT'S NORMAL IN A UNIVERSE OF GIANT ALIENS AND YOUTHFUL DEMI-GODS, I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW.
ARE YOU FRIGHTENED, KATRINKA?
NOT ME, GREGOR-- BUT BRIGIT IS AS NERVOUS AS A SCHOOLGIRL.
IF YOU HAD MY SENSITIVITY, YOU'D FEEL IT. SHE'S READY TO SCREAM.
THE MASTERS WILL SEE US.
TAKE CARE WHAT YOU SAY. YOUR FATE--AND THAT OF HUMANKIND--MAY DEPEND ON THE IMPRESSION YOU MAKE.
STAND TALL AND PROUD. REMEMBER YOU ARE MORE THAN HUMAN NOW... YOU ARE GODS.


I TELL MYSELF, "DON'T BE AFRAID, BRIGIT LASS. THE MASTERS CARE AS MUCH ABOUT YOU AS YOU CARE ABOUT A MARE'S FLEA."
THE THOUGHT'S HARDLY A COMFORT.
PARTICULARLY WHEN I REMEMBER MY DREAM.


IT'S MY DREAM. AFTER ALL, THAT'S BROUGHT US HERE. TO THIS AUDIENCE WITH THE MASTERS WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
RAOUL'S HAND TIGHTENS ON MINE OFFERING LOVE.
CELESTIAL LORDS, I PRESENT TO YOU THE YOUNG GODS--
- TWELVE YOUNG HUMANS CHOSEN BY THE OLDEN GODS OF EARTH TO EMBODY THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THEIR RACE.
FOR MANY MONTHS THEY HAVE RESIDED HERE--LEARNING THE PURPOSE AND PRACTICE OF THEIR DEMI-GOD POWERS-- AWAITING YOUR APPRAISAL.
TODAY THEY SEEK AN AUDIENCE-- TO EXPLAIN A CRISIS THEY PERCEIVE ON THEIR HOME PLANET--AND TO MAKE A REQUEST.

GREAT LORDS, I AM VARUA, SHE WHO PERSONIFIES THE HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT OF SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS.
SOME MONTHS AGO, WHILE VISITING OUR HOME PLANET, SEVERAL OF US ENCOUNTERED AN EVIL MANIFESTATION IN THE HUMAN NATION KNOWN AS ISRAEL--
--WHOSE IMAGE DAY-DREAMER NOW CONJURES FOR YOU.
AN HOUR AGO, ONE OF US--SEA WITCH, KNOWN IN HUMAN LIFE AS BRIGIT O'HARE--DREAMED OF A SECOND SUCH MANIFESTATION RISING FROM HER HOME ISLAND OF IRELAND.
WE BELIEVE THE DREAM AND THE REALITY ARE CONNECTED.
AS A SPIRITUAL GUIDE, I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF A RENEGADE DEITY, THREATENING TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION--
C'MON, VARUA--JUST TELL THEM WHAT WE THINK.
ONE OF THE EARTH GODS HAS GONE CRAZY--AND THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE MAY BE IN DANGER!
FORGIVE DAYDREAMER'S IMPETUOSITY, GREAT LORDS
LIKE HER FELLOWS, AT HEART SHE IS STILL MORE HUMAN THAN DEMI-GOD...
IF THAT MEANS I STILL CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PEOPLE BACK HOME--
--YOU BET I'M STILL HUMAN.
I GREW UP ON A FARM IN OTTAWA.
MY NEAREST FRIEND WAS TWO MILES AWAY, BUT WE FELT AS CLOSE AS SISTERS.
NO MATTER HOW FAR FROM EARTH YOU TAKE US, I'LL ALWAYS FEEL CLOSE TO MY PEOPLE.

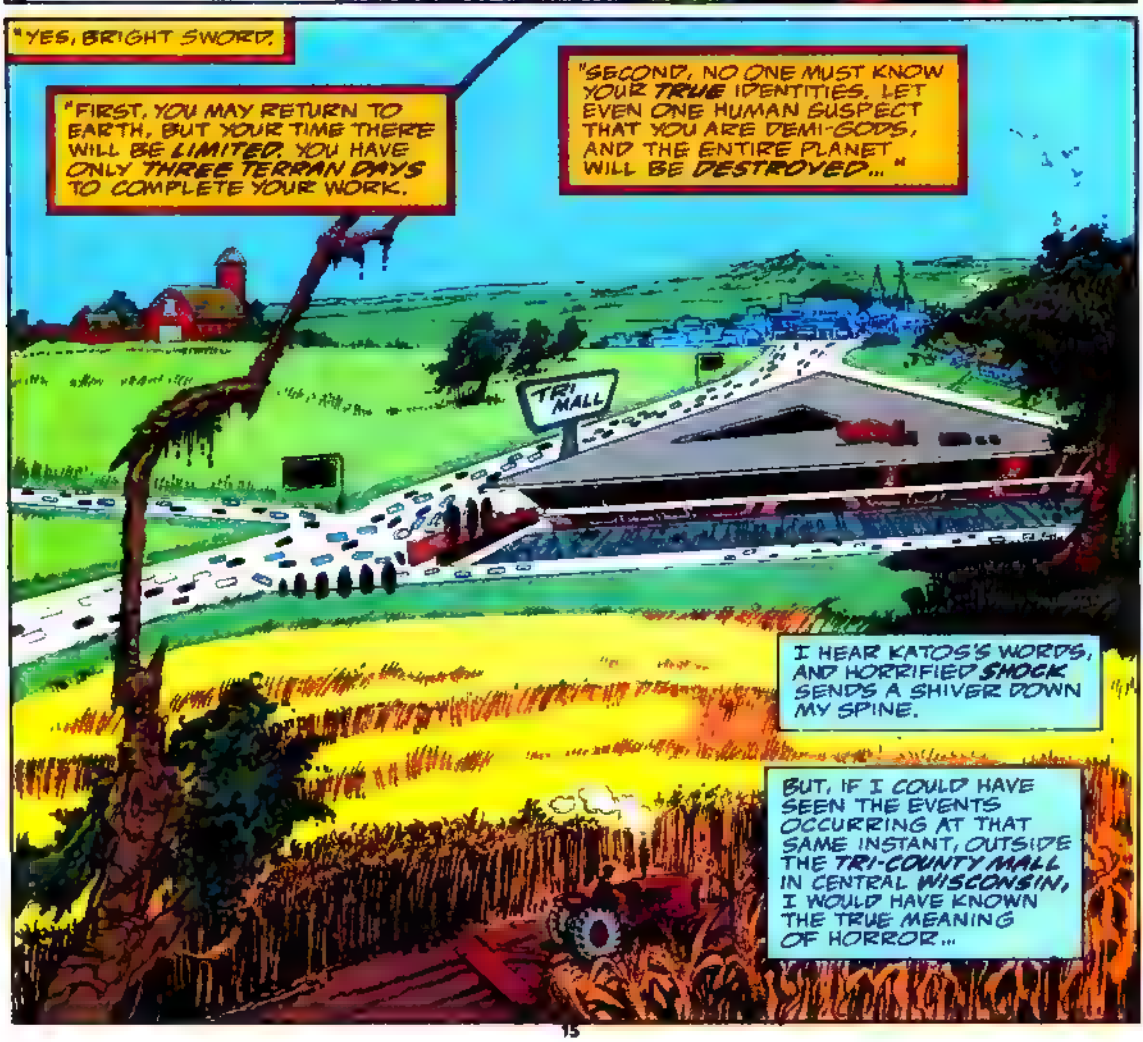

DAYDREAMER SPEAKS FOR US ALL, GREAT LORDS
WE ASK PERMISSION TO CONFRONT THIS RENEGADE DEITY ON EARTH--AND DEFEND THE RACE THAT GAVE US BIRTH.
MAY WE GO?
SILENCE.
THE MASTERS REMAIN AS STILL AS STATUES, AS IF THEY'D NEVER HEARD US.
WITH A GESTURE, OUR TEACHER, KATOS, TELLS US WE'RE DISMISSED.

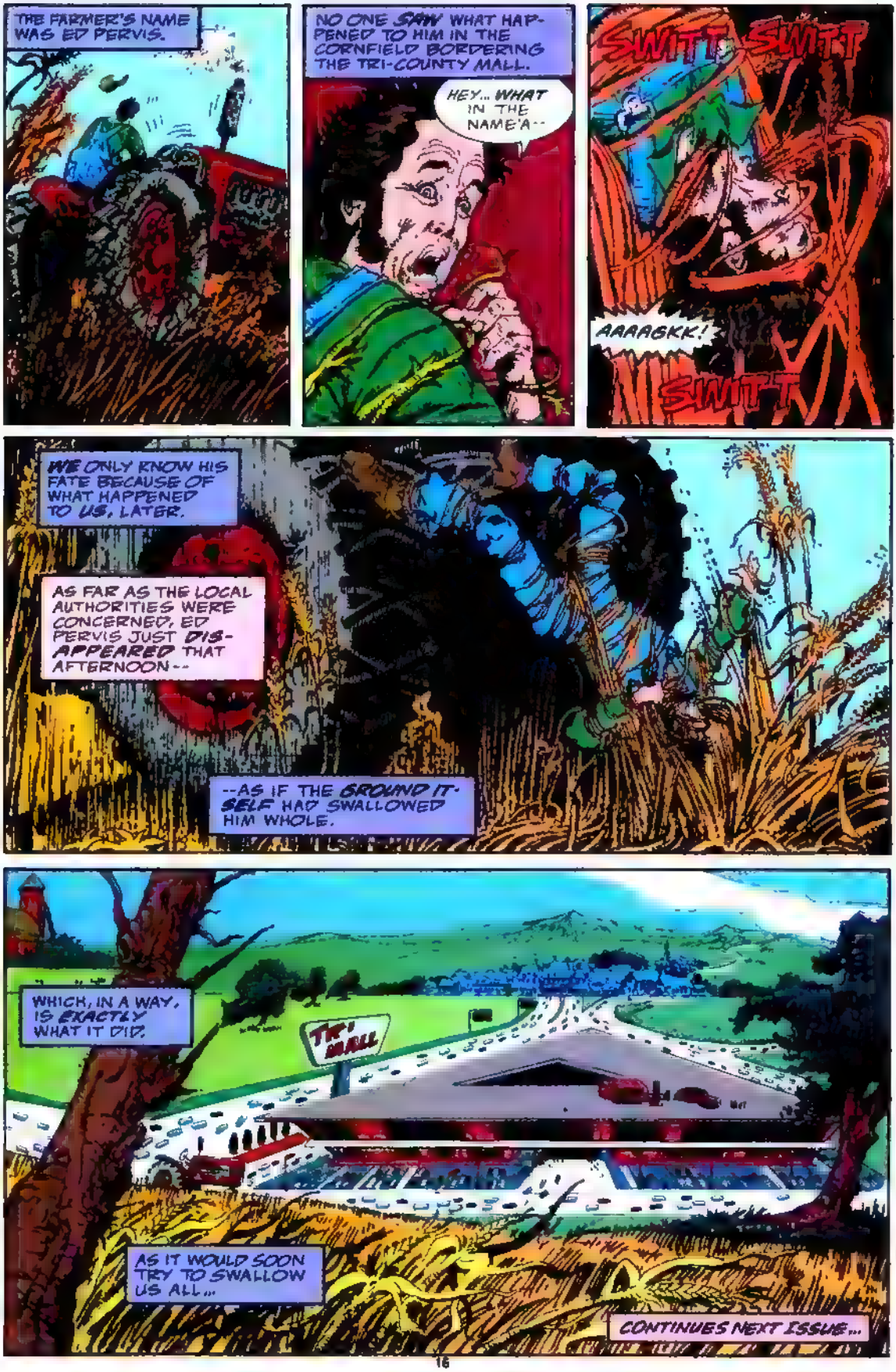

ON MOST DAYS, THE CELESTIAL MOTHER SHIP SEEMS AS LIMITLESS AS THE UNIVERSE ITSELF, AND OUR QUARTERS AS LARGE AS A SMALL WORLD...
...BUT TODAY, AFTER OUR MEETING WITH THE MASTERS, I FEEL AWARE OF OUR BOUNDARIES FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
THOSE BOUNDARIES SEEM LIKE THE WALLS OF A PRISON.

AND NOT EVEN RAOUL'S ARMS, HOLDING ME IN A WARM EMBRACE, HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SHATTER THE WALLS THAT NOW ENCLOSE MY SOUL...
YOU KNOW, MARK... I'M A WARRIOR BY TEMPERAMENT--I THRIVE ON ACTION AND DEED--
--BUT I ENVY THE SERENITY VARUA AND DAYDREAMER SEEM TO REALIZE WHEN THEY JOIN IN PSYCHIC UNION.
OUR UNIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS SERENE, BRIGHT SWORD.

CERTAINLY NOT THIS UNION, CARTER.
VARUA AND I ARE SIFTING THE EARTH'S PSYCHIC AURA...
..FOR PORTENTS OF THE RENEGADE GOD'S PRESENCE...
AND I THINK...
..WE'VE FOUND IT.
THREE FOCAL POINTS OF SUPERNAL ENERGY...
...IN NORTHERN IRELAND... CENTRAL WISCONSIN... AND THE ISLAND OF SRI LANKA...
BECAUSE SHE WAS BORN IN IRELAND, AND HAS AN AFFINITY FOR THE LAND, BR'GIT MUST HAVE SENSED THE IRISH FOCAL POINT--
--AND BROUGHT IT INTO CONSCIOUSNESS WITH HER DREAM.
WHATEVER THE RENEGADE GOD IS THREATENING, THOSE THREE LOCI ARE CENTERS OF THE DANGER.
IF THE CELESTIALS GIVE US PERMISSION TO RETURN, NOW WE KNOW WHERE TO START--
THEN MAKE YOUR PREPARATIONS, YOUNG GODS
THE MASTERS HAVE SPOKEN...
YOU MAY LEAVE THE MOTHER SHIP AT WILL.
WITH ONLY TWO CONDITIONS--

CONDITIONS--? WHO CARES ABOUT CONDITIONS?! WE'RE GO N' HOME!
I REMIND MYSELF THAT YOU'RE ALL STILL HUMAN, DESPITE YOUR GODLIKE ATTRIBUTES, BUT PLEASE, GENI!--
YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I HAD A REAL BURGER, SOGGY WITH GRILL GREASE, WRAPPED IN A THREE-DAY-OLD BUN?
--AS YOU WALK AMONG MEN AGAIN, TRY TO RESTRAIN YOUR LESS WHOLESOME APPETITES
YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A PAIR OF "CONDITIONS", KATOS?


"YES, BRIGHT SWORD.
"FIRST, YOU MAY RETURN TO EARTH, BUT YOUR TIME THERE WILL BE LIMITED. YOU HAVE ONLY THREE TERRAN DAYS TO COMPLETE YOUR WORK.
"SECOND, NO ONE MUST KNOW YOUR TRUE IDENTITIES, LET EVEN ONE HUMAN SUSPECT THAT YOU ARE DEMI-GODS, AND THE ENTIRE PLANET WILL BE DESTROYED..."
TRI MALL
I HEAR KATOS'S WORDS, AND HORRIFIED SHOCK SENDS A SHIVER DOWN MY SPINE.
BUT, IF I COULD HAVE SEEN THE EVENTS OCCURRING AT THAT SAME INSTANT, OUTSIDE THE TRI-COUNTY MALL IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN, I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE TRUE MEANING OF HORROR...


THE FARMER'S NAME WAS ED PERVIS.
NO ONE SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM IN THE CORNFIELD BORDERING THE TRI-COUNTY MALL.
HEY... WHAT IN THE NAME'A--
SWITT SWITT
AAAAGKK!
SWITT
WE ONLY KNOW HIS FATE BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO US, LATER.
AS FAR AS THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE CONCERNED, ED PERVIS JUST DISAPPEARED THAT AFTERNOON--
--AS IF THE GROUND ITSELF HAD SWALLOWED HIM WHOLE.
WHICH, IN A WAY, IS EXACTLY WHAT IT DID.
TRI-MALL
AS IT WOULD SOON TRY TO SWALLOW US ALL...
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
GHOST RIDER
AND
DR. STRANGE
$1.50 US
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c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

Well, I'm writing you this time about MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #95. (Having my letter printed was great incentive). Unfortunately, I can't say I really liked this issue.

Ghost Rider and Cable: This story is hot! A girl who can't die, the original ninjas and, although Guang Yap's art needs work, page three, panel three knocked me out of my chair! No Claws! Keep it up, Howard!

Hulk: I liked the idea of a kid trying to act like the Hulk and the consequences of that, but this story didn't work. Six Claws and a Penance Stare!

Wolverine: My opinion really changed on the last serial since my previous letter—it actually came out pretty good. It was lucky though—it had the Marvelous Peter David and Sam Kieth, so I ended up being generous and I give it (drum roll, please...) Two Claws!!!

It seems to me that Todd Foxx isn't doing very well on this new series, though. I'm not trying to put Todd down, but I think he needs to work harder on this job. Sorry, but I'll have to give it (brace yourself!) Six Claws. But I did like the origin of Wolverine's original costume!

Keep the Sam Kieth covers coming and bring back Coldblood 7!

Nathan Olsen
4920 Los Coyotes #4
Long Beach, CA 90815

Thanks for writing again, Nathan. As for Coldblood-7, you can check him out in his own limited series, by Doug Moench and Malcolm Jones, later this year!

Dear Terry and Co.

I first bought MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS when you began the Weapon-X storyline, which, by the way, was excellent. Since then, I've stuck around for the Wolverine story by David and Kieth and the Beast feature. I was excited when I learned about the Ghost Rider and Cable team-up, as they are two of the most interesting and enigmatic characters Marvel has to offer.

Thus far (#96), I have mixed reviews for the above story. Howard Mackie's tale is interesting and fast-paced, but Guang Yap's artistic renderings don't really thrill me. For me, the artwork of a story is at least as important as the storyline, and for me, Yap's work just doesn't do it.

As for the Wolverine story, I like the concept and the artwork is good. Uncegila was a bit disappointing as a horned, toothed giant worm, but I'll give it the benefit of the doubt. Overall, this story works for me.

The Nova story proved to be worth reading and I enjoyed all aspects of it. Curbs' artwork is great and I hope to see more in the future. The story was a great commentary on obsessed leadership, blind followers and the disaster that can arise from these.

The Speedball story was horrible. It read like an extended Hostess ad and I couldn't bear to read it. If I didn't like Lobdell's other work, I'd say he should be taken out and shot for this effort. The artwork was acceptable, especially given what Jensen had to work with.

Overall, this wasn't one of the best issues of MCP. I hope the future issues will be better. I'm looking forward to the 100th issue and the upcoming Ghost Rider/Dr. Strange team-up as well as the Wolverine and Nightcrawler storyline. I like the format and intentions of your magazine, and I hope that future stories prove better.

Jordan Davis
1010 Columbia Pl.
Davis, CA 95616

Hey, Jordan, we liked those Hostess ads! Don't listen to him, Scott, you're still the best!

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.
GHOST RIDER/ DR. STRANGE..... 1
DOORWAY TO DARKNESS
Part 2 of 6
"GATHERING"

Last issue, young Kevin Moran, trying to escape his own personal demons, was confronted by the demon Gormac. Now, can Dr. Strange and Ghost Rider protect the youngster from Gormac's evil?

Writer — HOWARD MACKIE
Penciler — RICK LEONARDI
Inker — JIMMY PALMIOTTI
Letterer — JANICE CHIANG
Colorist — FRED MENDEZ

pg.
PHANTOM RIDER..... 9
"STUNT SHOW"

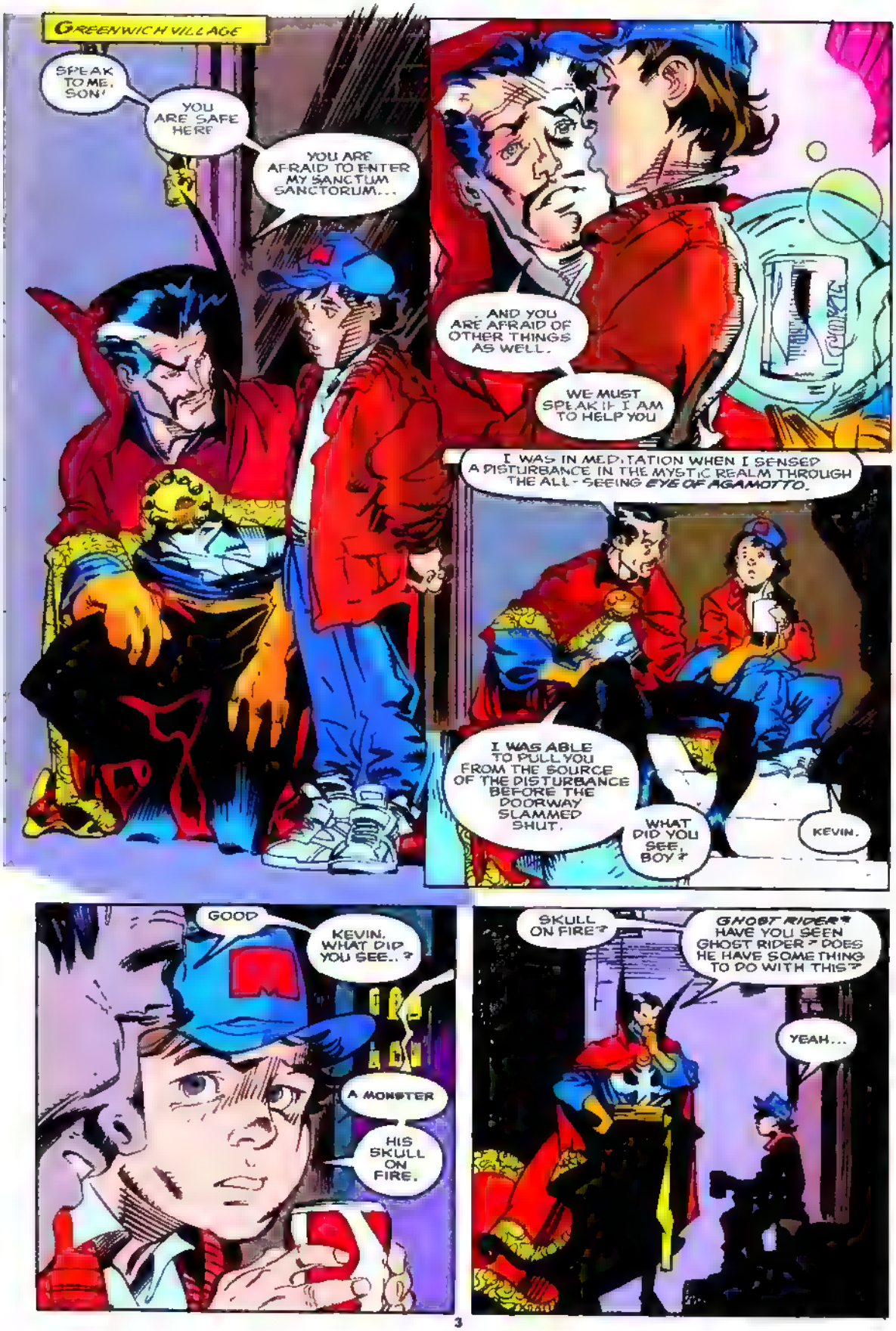
The Phantom Rider–a mysterious, ghost-like horseman–battles the evil of D'Spayrel.

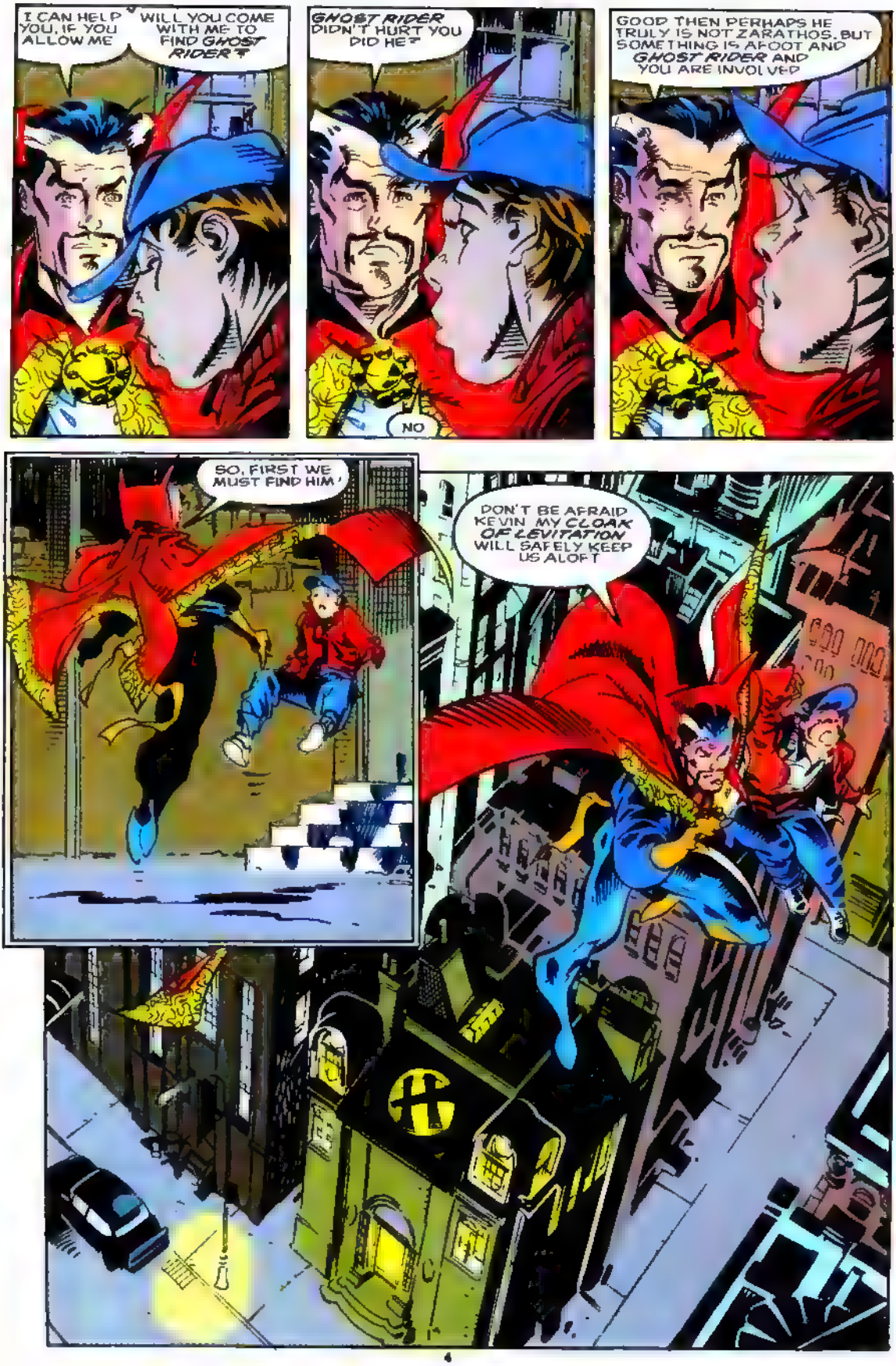
Writer — GARY BARNUM
Artist — DAVE HOOVER
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — PAT GARRAHY

NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE AND NIGHTCRAWLER TEAM UP WITH SOME MONSTROUS ALLIES — IN ORDER TO ROOT OUT THE TRUE MONSTERS OF WINZELDORF! GHOST RIDER AND DR. STRANGE INVESTIGATE DISTURBANCES IN THE MYSTIC REALM! THE YOUNG GODS SPLIT INTO THREE TEAMS ON EARTH! PLUS, RINTRAH IN "STAGE FRIGHT!"

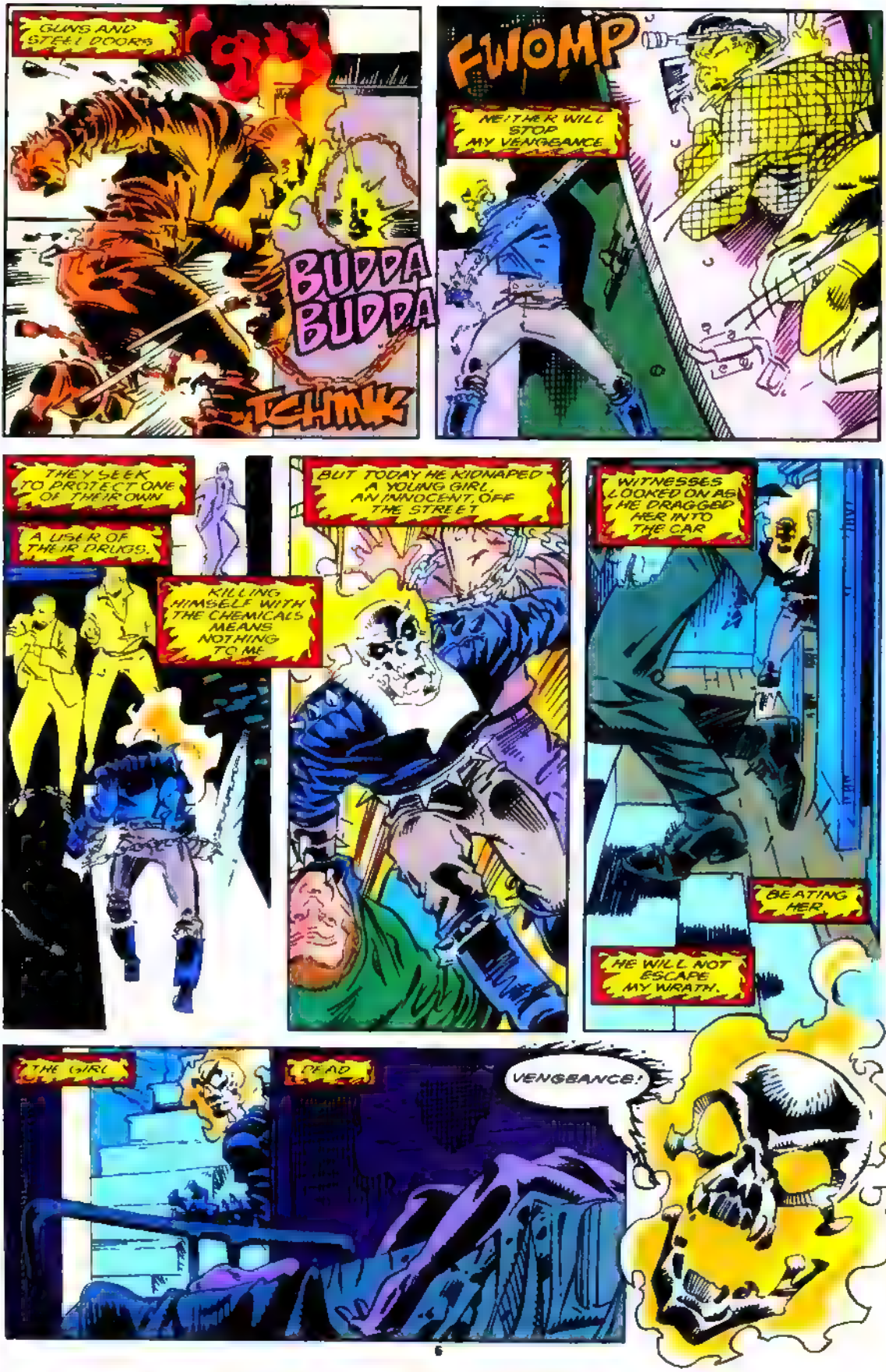
DOORWAY TO DARKNESS · CHAPTER 2
GATHERING
FOOLS!
YOU LET THE BOY ESCAPE!
B-BUT, GORN...
REVERT TO YOUR TRUE FORMS WHEN ADDRESSING ME!
NO EARTHLING SHOULD EVER KNOW MY TRUE NAME!
GHOST RIDER
AND
DR. STRANGE

YOU PUSHED HIM THROUGH THE DOORWAY.
YOU KNEW HE MUST ENTER BY HIMSELF IF I AM TO USE HIM TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE'
HE IS MY KEY'
YES, GORN'
YOU'RE RIGHT, GORN!
OF COURSE, GORN!
SILENCE'
KRAK
THE SIGHT AND SOUND OF YOU OFFENDS ME!
CRUNCH
NOW FIND ME THE BOY' AND DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO GET HIM TO ENTER THE DOORWAY' DO NOT FAIL ME -
- -OR NEXT I WILL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR HEAD'


GREENWICH VILLAGE
SPEAK TO ME, SON!
YOU ARE SAFE HERE
YOU ARE AFRAID TO ENTER MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM...
AND YOU ARE AFRAID OF OTHER THINGS AS WELL.
WE MUST SPEAK IF I AM TO HELP YOU
I WAS IN MEDITATION WHEN I SENSED A DISTURBANCE IN THE MYSTIC REALM THROUGH THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
I WAS ABLE TO PULL YOU FROM THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE BEFORE THE DOORWAY SLAMMED SHUT.
WHAT DID YOU SEE, BOY?
KEVIN.
GOOD
KEVIN, WHAT DID YOU SEE..?
A MONSTER
HIS SKULL ON FIRE.
SKULL ON FIRE?
GHOST RIDER? HAVE YOU SEEN GHOST RIDER? DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?
YEAH...


I CAN HELP YOU, IF YOU ALLOW ME
WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO FIND GHOST RIDER?
GHOST RIDER DIDN'T HURT YOU DID HE?
NO
GOOD THEN PERHAPS HE TRULY IS NOT ZARATHOS. BUT SOMETHING IS AFOOT AND GHOST RIDER AND YOU ARE INVOLVED
SO, FIRST WE MUST FIND HIM!
DON'T BE AFRAID KEVIN MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION WILL SAFELY KEEP US ALOFT

EAST NEW YORK, BROOKLYN..
VENGEANCE.
I AM DRIVEN TO AVENGE THE SPILLING OF INNOCENT BLOOD
BUT THE FORCE THAT DRIVES ME IS STILL UNKNOWN
POLICE HAVE MY QUARRY CONTAINED
WHERE'S THE BACK UP? WE CALLED FOR IT TEN MINUTES AGO!
THEY WOULD ARREST HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE
IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, WE'LL BE LUCKY IF THEY FIND US TODAY!
I'M NOT GOING INTO THAT CRACK HOUSE WITH THESE PEA SHOOTERS
YEAH, THOSE GUYS CARRY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.
THEIR PUNISHMENT IS NOT ENOUGH.
SHOULD WE STOP HIM?
ARE YOU STUPID?
NEVER ENOUGH. NEVER ENOUGH.
STAY BACK, MAN, OR YOU'RE MEAT!


GUNS AND STEEL DOORS
BUDDA BUDDA
TCHINK
FWOMP
NEITHER WILL STOP MY VENGEANCE
THEY SEEK TO PROTECT ONE OF THEIR OWN
A USER OF THEIR DRUGS.
KILLING HIMSELF WITH THE CHEMICALS MEANS NOTHING TO ME
BUT TODAY HE KIDNAPED A YOUNG GIRL, AN INNOCENT, OFF THE STREET
WITNESSES LOOKED ON AS HE DRAGGED HER INTO THE CAR
BEATING HER
HE WILL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH.
THE GIRL
DEAD
VENGEANCE!

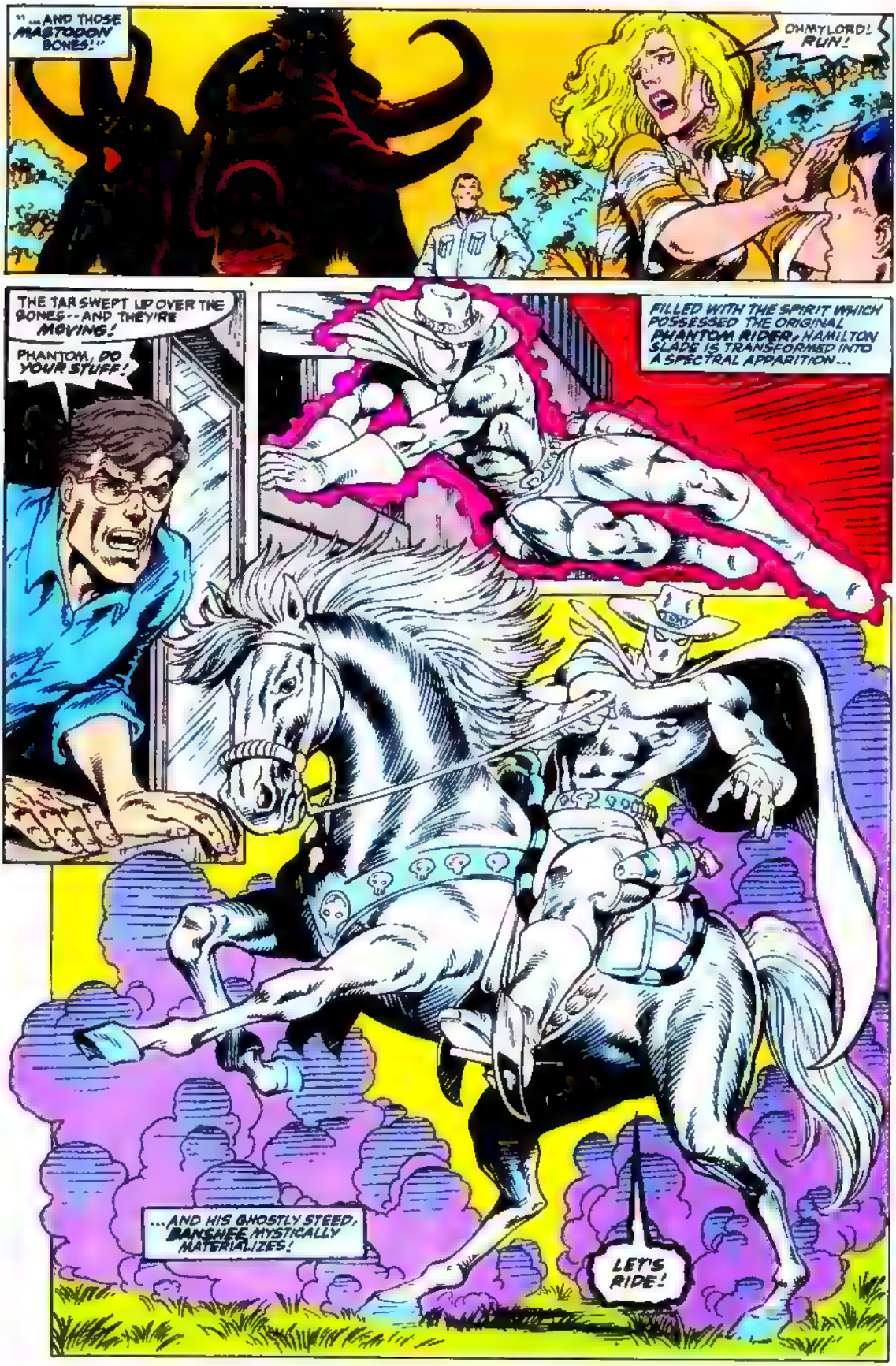
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!
THAT THING IS CRAZY!
HE'LL KILL ME!
TCHNK
NO
DEATH IS NOT ENOUGH
YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN.
NO!
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT!
I'M SICK!
THAT'S WHY I DO THE DRUGS, TOO!
I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER
SHE MADE ME LIKE THE OTHERS THEY ALL
FREEZE!
WE WANT HIM ALIVE, SO HE CAN TAKE US TO THE GIRL!
SWAT
THEY'LL FIND THE GIRL
INNOCENT
BROKEN
DEAD.

YOU MUST FEEL HER PAIN
HERS AND ALL THE OTHERS
AIIIEEEEEE
I HAVE NEED OF YOU
GHOST RIDER!
NO!
AIIEEEE
STOP!
MAKE IT STOP!
NO!

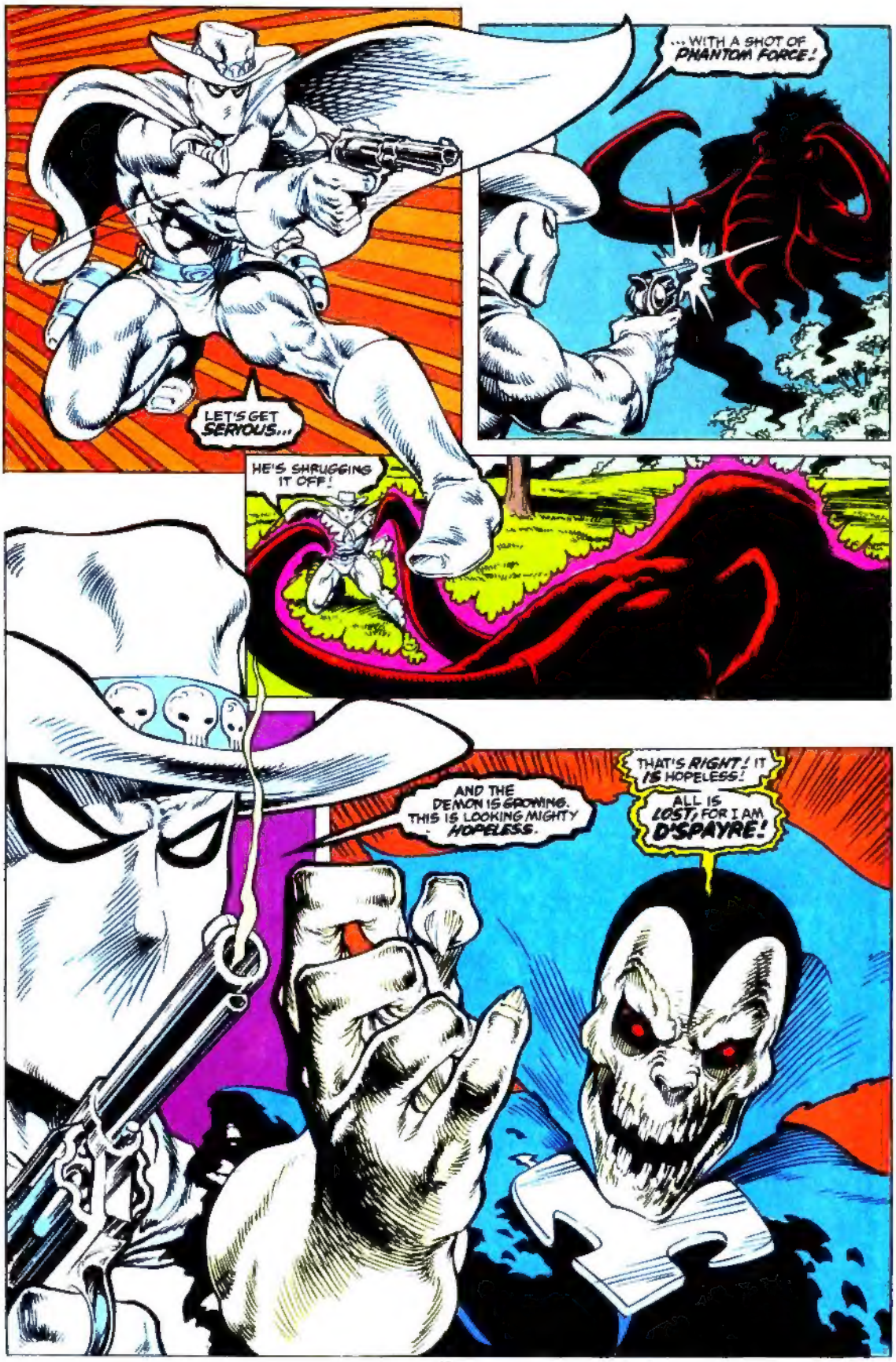
THE PAIN!
SO MUCH PAIN!
NO MORE!
NO...
...MORE
AIIEEEE
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE!

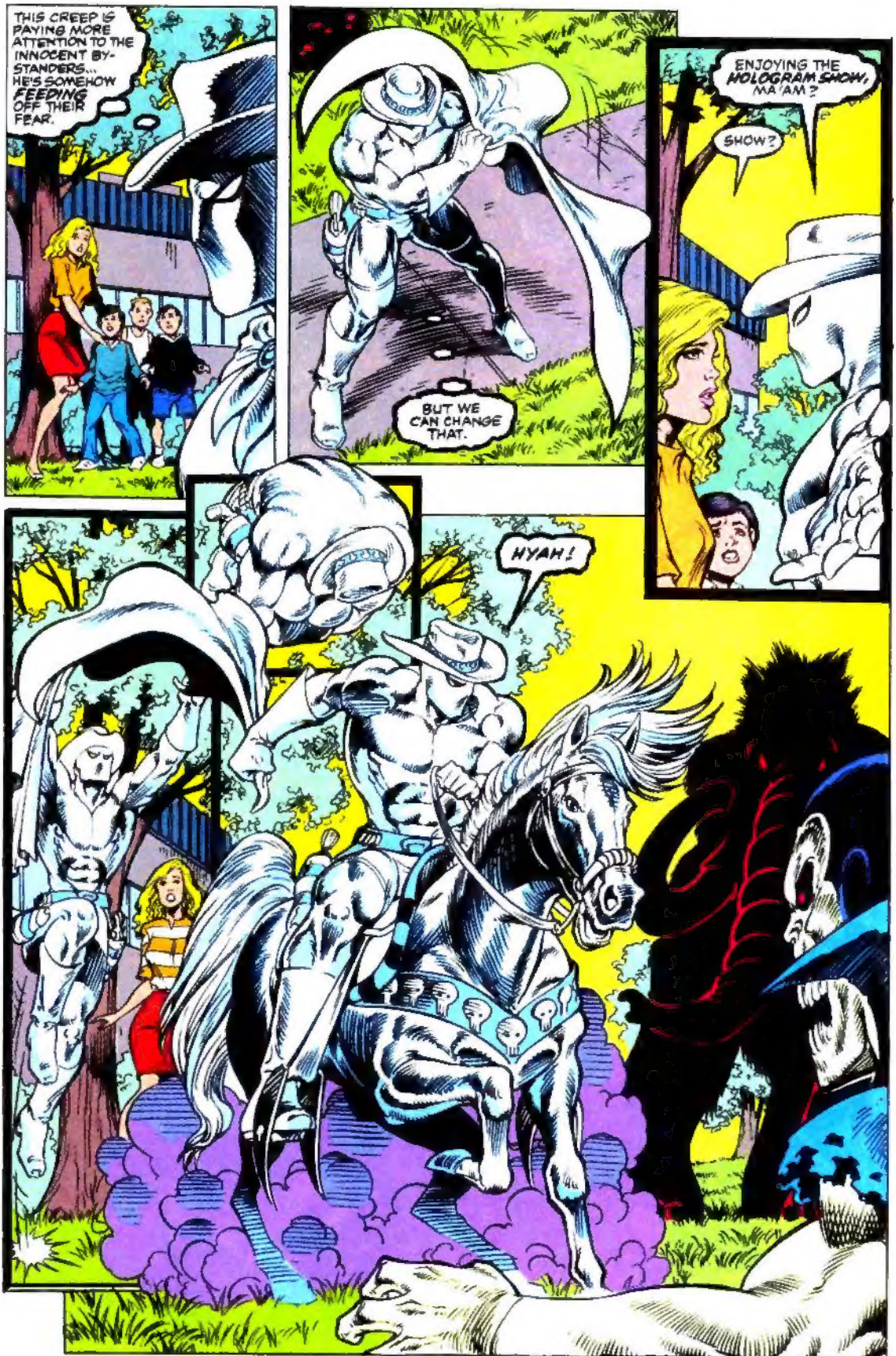
WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, KNOWN AS "THE MIRACLE MILE," LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA...
PRESTIGIOUS ARCHAEOLOGIST HAMILTON SLADE HAS BEEN INVITED TO STUDY AT ONE OF THE FIELD'S MOST ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY SITES-- THE LA BREA TAR PITS.
STUNT SHOW
FEATURING THE PHANTOM RIDER
IT WAS GREAT OF UCLA* TO ARRANGE THIS FOR ME. I HOPE THEY LIKED MY LECTURE ENOUGH TO OFFER ME A STAFF POSITION. WHAT I COULD ACCOMPLISH WITH AN ESTABLISHMENT LIKE THAT BACKING ME .!
ODD. COULD HAVE SWORN I WAS BEING WATCHED...
* UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES. --Terry

SOMEONE OUT HERE?
CAN I HELP YOU?
UH... SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. SOME OF MY STUDENTS SLIPPED AWAY FOR A SNACK..
...AND I THINK WE'RE LOST.
THAT'S.. QUITE ALL RIGHT--
AH... THERE YOU ARE. SHALL WE CONTINUE OUR TOUR, MS. TORRENCE?
HMPH... HAVEN'T SEEN HIM HERE BEFORE
AND THAT ODD PHANTOM FEELING--
--SEEMS TO FOCUS ON HIM...

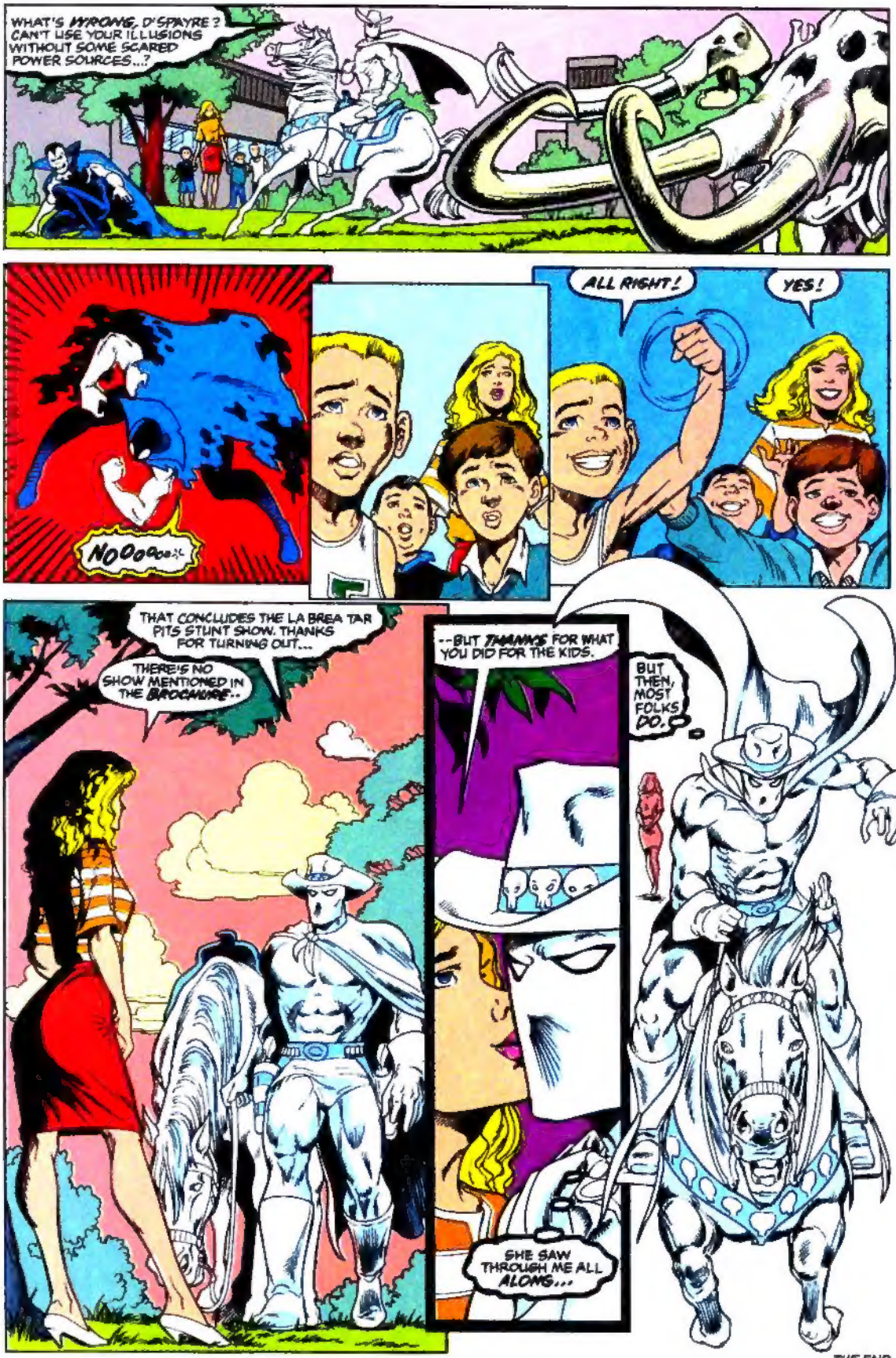

"...AND THOSE MASTODON BONES!"
OHMYLORD! RUN!
THE TAR SWEPT UP OVER THE BONES--AND THEY'RE MOVING!
PHANTOM, DO YOUR STUFF!
FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT WHICH POSSESSED THE ORIGINAL PHANTOM RIDER, HAMILTON SLADE IS TRANSFORMED INTO A SPECTRAL APPARITION...
...AND HIS GHOSTLY STEED, BANSHEE, MYSTICALLY MATERIALIZES!
LET'S RIDE!

NEED TO HERD THESE BEHEMOTHS AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN...
WHPSH
...BUT THAT TOUR GUIDE--HE'S CHANGING...
...BECOMING SOME KIND OF DEMON.
NO! CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD...
...BEFORE I COULD MAKE MYSELF--
--INTANGIBLE! WHEW...


...WITH A SHOT OF PHANTOM FORCE!
LET'S GET SERIOUS...
HE'S SHRUGGING IT OFF!
AND THE DEMON IS GROWING. THIS IS LOOKING MIGHTY HOPELESS.
THAT'S RIGHT! IT IS HOPELESS!
ALL IS LOST, FOR I AM D'SPAYRE!


THIS CREEP IS PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE INNOCENT BY-STANDERS... HE'S SOMEHOW FEEDING OFF THEIR FEAR.
BUT WE CAN CHANGE THAT.
ENJOYING THE HOLOGRAM SHOW, MA'AM?
SHOW?
HYAH!

HOPE THIS WORKS.
RAD!
WAY COOL!
FRESH!
NO! THIS IS ALL WRONG! THOSE CHILDREN SHOULD BE PETRIFIED!
AND YOU SHOULD JUST BE FRIED!
GOTCHA!
AARGH!
FINE SHOOTIN' IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.


WHAT'S WRONG, D'SPAYRE? CAN'T USE YOUR ILLUSIONS WITHOUT SOME SCARED POWER SOURCES...?
NOOoooo...
ALL RIGHT!
YES!
THAT CONCLUDES THE LA BREA TAR PITS STUNT SHOW. THANKS FOR TURNING OUT...
THERE'S NO SHOW MENTIONED IN THE BROCHURE...
--BUT THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR THE KIDS.
SHE SAW THROUGH ME ALL ALONG...
BUT THEN, MOST FOLKS DO.
THE END.